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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-eighth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 57th MEETING
(FIRST PART*)

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 6 March 1992, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SOLT (Hungary)

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* The summary record of the second part of the meeting appears as document E/CN.4/1992/SR.57/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARTENSON, OUTGOING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of all those taking part in the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, paid tribute to Mr. Martenson, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, who, after 12 years in the service of the United Nations, including several heading the Centre for Human Rights, was preparing to resume his activities in his own country. He emphasized that the cause of human rights had made rapid progress since Mr. Martenson's arrival at the Centre for Human Rights and that progress would for ever be associated with his name.

2. In his capacity as Chairman of the Commission, he had been able to appreciate Mr. Martenson's competence and personal qualities, in particular his constant attentiveness during the Commission's discussions and his availability and accessibility. He wished Mr. Martenson every success in his new duties.

3. Mr. ENNACEUR (Tunisia) joined in the Commission's tribute to Mr. Martenson at the end of his assignment. What he would remember most about the Director of the Centre for Human Rights were his human qualities, his courtesy and his open-mindedness, as well as the impetus that he had given to the Centre for Human Rights. He wished him personal happiness and professional success.

4. He then welcomed Mr. Boutros-Ghali's choice of Mr. Antoine Blanca to succeed Mr. Martenson. Mr. Blanca had headed an important United Nations department and had long experience of diplomatic affairs. He was also a fighter. Before becoming a diplomat and a senior United Nations official, Mr. Blanca had striven for social justice and campaigned for the liberation of peoples during the struggle against colonialism. Later he had joined in activities to promote the development of the newly independent countries, balanced international economic relations and international cooperation. The fact that the United Nations Office at Geneva was to be headed by a son of France, the motherland of freedom and human rights, was to be welcomed.

5. Mr. SEMICHI (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the Group had highly appreciated the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights throughout his term as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Director of the Centre for Human Rights because he had shown concern for African countries' problems. All the representatives of those countries were grateful to him for his unfailing readiness to meet and listen to them. Mr. Martenson was a third worlder who would remain for ever dear to the hearts of African countries. In their name, he expressed the hope that Mr. Martenson's future activities in his own country would be crowned with success.

6. He then welcomed the arrival of Mr. Blanca in Geneva as the new Director-General with consequent supreme responsibility for human rights. Noting that barely 120 kilometres separated Africa from the new

Director-General's ancestral homeland, he declared his conviction that a man who had always followed the African continent's evolution closely and displayed an anti-colonialist spirit would continue to show concern for the situation in Africa. He wished him complete success in his mission in the service of democracy and human rights, and assured him of the full support of the African delegations in general and the Algerian delegation in particular.

7. Mr. BROTODININGRAT (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Asian Group, said that he wished to pay tribute to Mr. Jan Martenson on the occasion of his departure from the Centre for Human Rights and his succession at the helm by Mr. Antoine Blanca. During five very productive years, Mr. Jan Martenson had given the Centre for Human Rights competent and effective leadership. He had provided the Commission's deliberations with illuminating advice and guidance. The Asian Group had always appreciated his tireless dedication, his broadmindedness and his various initiatives in the quest for better observance and implementation of human rights. Most of all, it had valued his unwavering determination to redirect human rights activities away from exchanges of accusations and towards cooperation among nations.

8. Mr. Martenson was leaving with a major initiative still to be completed, namely the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993. As a mark of its respect for him, the Asian Group pledged itself to spare no effort to make the Conference a success. It would also like to convey to Mr. Martenson its best wishes for the continuation of his brilliant career. It was convinced that it would not only remember his valuable contribution, but would also continue to benefit from his wisdom and talent.

9. The Asian Group also wished to welcome the new Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Antoine Blanca. Mr. Blanca was not a newcomer to the United Nations. Those who had known him in his previous capacity on the thirty-seventh floor of the United Nations Headquarters building in New York would be confident of his ability to build upon Mr. Martenson's work. The Asian Group hoped that Mr. Blanca, with his strong background in economic and social development, would be successful in injecting development dimensions into United Nations human rights activities. It wished him every success in discharging his new tasks and pledged him its full cooperation.

10. Mr. KRALIK (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic), speaking on behalf of the Eastern European Group of countries, conveyed their most sincere thanks to Mr. Martenson for his long and exacting work as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. As a Czechoslovak proverb put it, actions spoke louder than words, and Mr. Martenson, by his actions and his warm personality, had inspired not only respect but also affection in those around him. The countries of Eastern Europe expected much of his successor, Mr. Blanca, and wished him all the strength he needed to succeed in his task.

11. Mr. GRILLO (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group of countries, said that he wished to express their great gratitude to Mr. Martenson for the way in which he had performed the functions entrusted to him. Mr. Martenson's activities had been particularly valuable to the countries of the Latin American region in two spheres: in disseminating the culture of human rights and in providing technical assistance to countries that had requested it. The spirit of cooperation

between the Centre for Human Rights and Member States that Mr. Martenson had succeeded in kindling and encouraging was essential for the effective strengthening of knowledge and the protection of human rights. The proposals and initiatives presented to the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 had to be undertaken in the same spirit, so as to strengthen United Nations activities for the good of those peoples and individuals who, rejecting arbitrariness, confrontation and exclusion from society, were struggling for peace and development. He again thanked Mr. Martenson for striving with great devotion and integrity to strengthen human rights values and wished him every success in his future activities.

12. Mr. MEZZALAMA (Italy), speaking on behalf of the Western Group of countries, said that the atmosphere of joyful excitement usually typical of the closing meeting of the Commission on Human Rights was tinged with sadness because the meeting coincided with the departure of Mr. Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and Director of the Centre for Human Rights. Without mentioning in detail all that Mr. Martenson had undertaken and achieved, it should be emphasized that he had instilled new ideas through his innovative and dynamic approach.

13. Mr. Martenson's mandate had coincided with extraordinary and unpredictable events whose influence upon human rights matters had been unique and unprecedented. The worldwide human rights revolution had found in Mr. Martenson an attentive interpreter who had done his best to adjust his activities and the Centre's infrastructures to the new international realities with tact and discretion. Thanks to his skill, the Commission had been able to strengthen and widen the sphere of the protection of human rights.

14. It was during Mr. Martenson's tenure of office that such human rights instruments as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons, the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National Minorities and the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance had been signed or adopted. With regard to development, Mr. Martenson, recognizing that the age of confrontation was giving way to international cooperation, had declared at the outset of the forty-eighth session that there was no North and no South when it came to human rights, just as there was neither a West nor an East. The enlargement of the Commission to 53 members, besides proving the international community's deep concern for human rights, was in keeping with the new situation and paved the way for greater mutual understanding among countries.

15. All Mr. Martenson's work reflected his motivating idea of the close connection between legislation, implementation and information as the cornerstones of human rights. The legislative process had made great strides; so far as implementation was concerned, much had been achieved but more remained to be done; but the Centre had made its greatest efforts in the information field, in particular through its advisory services and technical assistance. Mr. Martenson was motivated by the belief that a human being must know the rights to which he was entitled in order to demand their implementation. That was an essential condition for promoting true democracy,

the objective towards which the world was currently moving. Democracy required a human rights culture, and information and education were essential ingredients in building up that culture.

16. Such was the inspiration for the tremendous effort put into the many very attractive publications issued for the World Public Information Campaign, which had helped to disseminate ideas and encourage States to fulfil their international obligations. That same concern had inspired the idea for a World Conference on Human Rights which Mr. Martenson had suggested at the General Assembly in 1989. The Conference would be held at a time when an overall analysis of the problems at international level was needed to give new impetus to the defence and reassertion of human rights.

17. He also praised Mr. Martenson's human qualities, his ready smile, openmindedness, accessibility and concern to achieve fair and acceptable solutions. On behalf of the Western Group of countries, he expressed the hope that Mr. Martenson's future career would be as brilliant and successful as his leadership of the Centre for Human Rights suggested it would be.

18. Turning to the future, the new Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Blanca, already well known for his statements to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, could be assured that he could count on the support of the Western Group of countries in his exciting but difficult task.

STATEMENT BY MR. MARTENSON, OUTGOING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

19. Mr. MARTENSON (Outgoing Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights) said that human rights were a fundamental part of being human, an aspiration common to people all over the world, an ideal that knew no frontiers. Since the Secretary-General had asked him to assume responsibility for the Centre for Human Rights, his personal attachment to that cause had grown daily. The world had experienced considerable upheavals since 1987, and human rights had played a significant part in that process.

20. For the United Nations, 1987 had been a year of grave challenges. The financial crisis which had forced the cancellation of many human rights activities the year before was still exerting its pressure through staff reductions and resource restrictions. But at the same time, the human rights programme faced a challenge: to respond to the needs of millions of people whose fundamental rights were being flouted and violated. Ignoring the Organization's financial constraints, States, non-governmental organizations and individuals had demanded action by the United Nations on such diverse issues as the rights of the child, abolition of the death penalty, conscientious objection, the rights of minorities and the situation of migrant workers. Already at that time, the resources available had been exceeded by the demands made upon them.

21. In 1987, the first signs of the fundamental changes about to affect the world had already been perceptible. Reforms and openness had been moving ahead in the Soviet Union, disarmament talks beginning to bear fruit and the

first steps towards intercommunal dialogue being taken in South Africa. Democratic governments had been consolidating their position in many States and voices calling for reform had increasingly been heard in other countries. The world had undoubtedly been moving, but no one could have foreseen the upheavals that had taken place in the next five years; the end of the cold war, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the establishment of democracy in Eastern Europe and elsewhere, and the independence of Namibia, to name but a few. Those changes had been brought about by the yearning of all human beings to live with dignity and in liberty.

22. By 1987, the United Nations had already developed a set of international standards and mechanisms for promoting the observance of human rights. Unfortunately, little had been known of those standards and mechanisms outside Geneva and New York. On assuming responsibility for the human rights programme, he had believed that its standards and mechanisms could play an important role and had opted for a triangular approach based on the adoption of standards, their implementation and information/education. Because, in his view, the human rights programme had to be pragmatic and action-oriented, he had begun by strengthening those areas dealing with advisory services and information. It was necessary first to spread knowledge of human rights as widely as possible in order to move towards the ultimate objective of building a universal culture of human rights.

23. Major advances had been made in standard-setting and implementation procedures over the past few years. One most important advance in standard-setting had been the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which he and his colleagues had given their full support. The adoption of other international instruments such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the draft declaration on the rights of minorities would also be landmarks.

24. With regard to implementation procedures, the system of country rapporteurs had been strengthened and the Commission had taken a major step forward by establishing the Working Group on arbitrary detention. The United Nations had thus acquired the ability to act rapidly to protect individuals all over the world from attacks on their physical integrity through arbitrary executions, torture, disappearances and arbitrary detention. That procedure of international humanitarian habeas corpus should be extended to protect all the spiritual and moral dimensions of the human person. The part being played by the Human Rights Committee in monitoring implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights also had to be mentioned.

25. Still in the area of implementation, note should be taken of the welcome increase in the number of ratifications and the dramatic increase in the number of petitions presented to the United Nations under the various procedures in force. That was undoubtedly due in part to greater public awareness of United Nations standards and more readily available information on the procedures for filing petitions.

26. In order to bring United Nations standards to bear on national reality, he had revitalized the advisory services and the technical assistance programme. All over the world, expert assistance had been given in matters of constitutional law, the administration of justice, elections and other legislative areas. Training courses had been organized for an average of 1,000 public officials a year. Fellowships had been granted. The establishment of national centres for documentation and training in human rights had been encouraged. The Centre for Human Rights had frequently assisted the establishment of specific national programmes in cooperation with the Governments concerned, specialized agencies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations.

27. With the end of the cold war, human rights had ceased to be an excuse for confrontation and human rights issues could be brought to the attention of the highest levels of government decision-making. Similarly, it had become increasingly apparent that human rights standards and concepts were directly relevant to other areas of United Nations activities, such as development. He had therefore made an effort to discuss human rights with policy-making bodies in the development field.

28. With regard to information, he and his colleagues had started from the principle that, if human rights were to become a reality for everyone, everyone had first to know about them. "Transmitting the human rights message" had been the theme of their public information activities. In 1987, he had proposed to the General Assembly the organization of a World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, and its range of activities was expanding every year. In 1988, the series of Fact Sheets had been inaugurated and so far some 20 had been published, dealing in a concise way with human rights issues, machinery or procedures. In 1988, the Centre had begun issuing the Human Rights Newsletter, a quarterly publication providing the general public with information about what the United Nations was doing in the human rights field. In addition, over 20 other publications had been issued on various topics, notably the rights of minorities and the functions of the Human Rights Committee. In order to spread awareness of human rights, the Centre also helped to provide speakers for meetings and various kinds of events; in the previous year alone, over 100 such events had enjoyed the presence of an expert provided by the Centre for Human Rights.

29. Non-governmental organizations played an essential part in promoting respect for human rights. He had therefore always sought to strengthen links with those organizations by involving them closely with all the Centre's activities. He wished to pay tribute to the millions of men and women who were working daily throughout the world to promote human rights, sometimes at the risk of their lives or liberty. They deserved not only gratitude but also, and most importantly, protection against persecution; that was a task which the Commission could not ignore.

30. Democracy and respect for human rights had become benchmarks for judging national and international decisions. Internationally, human rights norms were assuming increasing importance in relations between States, and their implementation had even become a criterion for the recognition of a State. Nationally, people were increasingly judging their Governments by how well they responded to their aspirations to human rights and social justice.

Foreign policy decisions, especially those concerning development assistance, were also increasingly linked with respect for human rights. But the United Nations had to help ensure that the ideals of democracy and human rights were implemented with respect for national cultures and traditions. An exportable model of democracy did not exist; democracy was, rather, an objective that every country must achieve for itself.

31. In order to respond effectively to the aspirations of the peoples of the world to enjoy better living standards in greater freedom, the United Nations should adopt a threefold approach. First of all, it should undertake concerted action to establish democracy and strengthen democratic institutions everywhere in the world because, for democracy to function, certain rights (the right to freedom of speech, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly) implicitly had to be respected and the inherent dignity and worth of every individual had to be recognized. The United Nations also had to protect democracy and, to that end, it had to study the negative impact of poverty, exclusion, racism and inequality on social justice and democracy. A clear understanding of that relationship was supremely important for successful action to correct the root causes of human rights problems. Effective democracy required the participation of every member of the community in the whole range of human activities; it was important, in that respect, to ensure the participation of women and to eliminate human rights violations to which women were particularly subject.

32. Secondly, the United Nations should pay particular attention to those dangers that had threatened peace and democracy in the past, such as racism, exclusion and denial of the rights of minorities. Racism was a transnational scourge that had to be countered by transnational means. He had suggested ways of strengthening United Nations action in the context of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had recommended the appointment of a special rapporteur or working group to deal with the question of minorities.

33. Finally, the United Nations had to ensure that its human rights activities were seen to produce tangible results. In other words, the recommendations made in the various reports before the Commission on Human Rights about very serious and widespread violations of human rights in many parts of the world must not remain without effect. It had to be shown that effective steps were taken to end such violations, which meant that new methods had to be found. In that regard, the question of individual responsibility for actions constituting violations of human rights had acquired crucial importance. A solution had to be found for the phenomenon of impunity and renewed interest had been expressed in the idea of an international criminal court. But the success of the Commission's efforts would depend upon a fundamental change in the attitude of Governments towards human rights. Human rights must acquire a value transcending political interests. Only in that way would it be possible to preserve the faith of the peoples of the world in human rights and democracy.

34. He sincerely hoped that the World Conference on Human Rights which would take place in a little more than a year's time would mark the beginning of a new era in human rights. One of the Conference's aims would be to demonstrate the universality of human rights, rights that responded to the deepest aspirations of the human person because human dignity was a fundamental concept ingrained in the heart of every human being without exception. He therefore

hoped that the Conference would take place in a constructive, action-oriented, non-politicized and cooperative spirit. It was also important for the World Conference to produce a credible response to the dilemma of the Centre for Human Rights, whose resources were far from increasing in proportion to its constantly growing responsibilities. It must not be forgotten that it was impossible to promote democracy, protect torture victims, trace people who had disappeared, or protect children from being sold or enslaved, without the necessary financial and human resources. It was therefore essential to increase the Centre's resources substantially in order to enable it to discharge its functions as it should. Before concluding, he paid tribute to the commitment, sense of duty and courage of all those United Nations staff members who devoted their efforts to human rights, never baulking at the constantly growing responsibilities despite their already heavy workload. They were one of the United Nations most precious assets and Member States owed it to them to provide adequate resources for them to carry out their task as best they could.

35. In the course of its forty-eighth session, the Commission had made significant progress in many areas and that augured well for the future. The world was at a decisive turning-point in human history. It was witnessing a peaceful revolution in the field of human rights, with people increasingly claiming respect for their rights and demanding the establishment of democratic Governments to guarantee and protect them. The decisions taken and soon to be taken by the Commission would affect human life throughout the world in the next century. It was necessary to act in such a way as to ensure that the great wave of hope in human rights and democracy currently sweeping the globe heralded the building of a better world. During the past five years, he had tried to make his own contribution to that achievement; he was happy with what had been achieved and that made him very hopeful for the future.

36. He then introduced Mr. Antoine Blanca, his successor both in the post of Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and as Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. Mr. Blanca had been a teacher of literature and had occupied very responsible positions in non-governmental organizations before becoming a political adviser in the French Prime Minister's private office and then a roving ambassador and France's Ambassador to Argentina. In 1989 he had been appointed Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation in the United Nations Secretariat, in which capacity he had played a part in a number of important developments. All the Commission's members and observer members, the non-governmental organizations and the Centre for Human Rights would certainly have complete confidence in Mr. Blanca and give him their full cooperation in order to continue the work already accomplished at the Commission's prompting.

37. The CHAIRMAN welcomed Mr. Blanca and wished him every success in his new duties both as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and as Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights.

STATEMENT BY MR. BLANCA, NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

38. Mr. BLANCA (New Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights) said that he hoped to be able

one day to deserve the praise just bestowed on Mr. Martenson. His relationship with Mr. Martenson had always been one of good mutual understanding, made the easier by their common interest in literature. He was very honoured to be welcomed into the Commission on Human Rights, one of the United Nations major bodies and one that was in a way continuing, on the ground, the work of the founding fathers of the International Bill of Human Rights and therefore of the Charter of the United Nations. The Commission had improved the United Nations ability to react to flagrant violations of human rights and had formulated many important concepts such as the right to development. At its forty-eighth session, it had adopted a declaration on the rights of minorities and begun discussions on the institution of emergency procedures. Those were extremely encouraging achievements. The large number of senior national figures who had addressed the Commission during its current session testified both to the importance attributed to its work and to the prominence of human rights problems in the contemporary world. The new Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros-Ghali himself, had stressed in his inaugural statement that the guarantee of fundamental freedoms and the protection of human rights constituted a prerequisite that the United Nations must promote. The Secretary-General attached particular importance to the close connection between human rights, development, democracy and the rule of law, with all of which the Commission was concerned. It was important to reassert the indivisibility of all human rights, whether civil and political or economic, social and cultural, including the right to development. The abject poverty in which more than 1 billion of the world's inhabitants were living was really a kind of slavery that was all the more intolerable because, in theory, modern scientific and technical achievements gave the organized international community the power to eliminate such monstrous indignity and injustice. It should be recalled that, under article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone was entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in that Declaration could be fully realized.

39. He thought there could never be enough emphasis on scrupulous respect for human rights in every society, without exception. In order to achieve that aim, it was necessary to oppose the flagrant violations of human rights being committed and, therefore, to perfect the ways and means to be used to that end. It was therefore important, if possible, to anticipate and forestall problems, to react speedily when they occurred and to take corrective measures in case of need. It was also necessary vigorously to defend and promote the principle of equality, and consequently to combat all discriminatory practices, put an end to apartheid without delay, ensure equal rights for women, and promote the rights of the child in order to protect future generations. It was essential to the success of the campaign for human rights, that all should take part in it. Mention should be made of the important part played in that respect by technical cooperation for the development of democratic institutions and basic infrastructures capable of ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world. The current World Public Information Campaign and the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights would provide many opportunities to determine everyone's future role in that inspiring task.

40. In conclusion, he thanked Mr. Martenson for his indefatigable efforts over the preceding five years, an outstanding period during which he had played the most significant role that everyone took pleasure in acknowledging.

41. Mr. STROHAL (Austria) proposed that the Commission adopt a motion of thanks to Mr. Martenson in the following terms:

> "The Commission decides to express its gratitude to Mr. Martenson for his excellent services to the Commission as well as for his dedication to the cause of human rights."

42. The motion of thanks proposed by the representative of Austria was adopted by acclamation.

43. The meeting was suspended at 4.40 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES (agenda item 23) (continued)

44. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Commission to proceed to the eighth ballot to elect the last member of the Sub-Commission from among the three remaining candidates from the countries of Eastern Europe.

45. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Galvis (Colombia) acted as teller.

46. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 52

Invalid ballots: None

Number of valid ballots: 52

Abstentions: None

Required majority: 27

Number of votes obtained:

	Member State	Number of votes obtained
Mr. Gaspar BIRO	Hungary	24
Mrs. Anna MICHALSKA	Poland	4
Mr. Volodymyr BOUTKEVICH	Ukraine	24

47. No candidate having obtained the required majority, it was decided that a ninth vote would be taken by secret ballot at a later stage.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION (agenda item 3) (continued)

48. The CHAIRMAN read out the text of a draft decision by the Commission requesting the Economic and Social Council to authorize it to hold 40 additional meetings at its forty-ninth session, with all the necessary secretariat services, including those for the preparation of summary records, and also requesting the Chairman of the forty-ninth session to do everything possible to organize its work within the time-limits normally allowed.

49. Mr. MAUTNER-MARKHOF (Secretary of the Commission), informing the Commission of the financial implications of the draft decision, said that the total cost of 40 additional meetings would amount to $644,000, distributed between: meeting servicing: $267,500; in-session documentation: $101,800; summary records: $253,400; general service and other requirements: $21,300.

50. The draft decision on the organization of the work of the forty-ninth session of the Commission was adopted without a vote.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (agenda item 25) (E/CN.4/1992/L.1)

51. The CHAIRMAN, introducing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.4/1992/L.1), drew Commission members' attention to the fact that the document was of a purely technical and indicative nature and did not imply that the Commission must take a decision on it.

52. Mr. YOUZIF (Iraq) said that a mistake had been made in including the question of the situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait as sub-item (b) under provisional agenda item 12. The Commission had not in fact decided to pursue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Kuwait under Iraqi occupation at its forty-ninth session.

53. The CHAIRMAN, acknowledging the validity of the comment by the representative of Iraq, said that item 12 (b) entitled "Situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait" should be deleted from the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session.

54. Mrs. RUESTA DE FURTER (Venezuela) said it was unfortunate that the provisional agenda was available only in English. She would like consideration of the document to be deferred until the Spanish version had been distributed.

55. Mr. SENE (Senegal) said that he would like to have the French version of the document under consideration.

56. The meeting was suspended at 6.20 p.m.